The Imminent Dissolution of the Russian Federation: Historical Patterns and Modern Catalysts

Russia continues its tradition of expansionist warfare against its neighbors. Few states resemble Russia in this regard. Historically, it has been aggressive toward almost all of its neighbors and beyond. Consequently, Russia has stood in opposition to the West, having historically been the promoter of most of the evils that have occurred in Eastern, Central, and Southeastern Europe (exclusively in the Balkans). Under Tsar Peter the Great, Russia began its expansion toward Europe (Poland, the Baltics, etc.),[1] and aimed to seize Constantinople–Istanbul, including the Illyrian–Balkan Peninsula.[2]

Russia continuously waged wars against Turkey–the Ottomans,[3] with territorial conquests beginning in the years 1735–1739,[4] followed by 1768–1774, around the Black Sea. While the Ottoman Empire was fighting Austria in 1787, Russia launched a war and achieved the armistice of Jassy on 9 January 1792, gaining Crimea, Odessa, Ochakov, and the Dniester region.[5] The Russo–Turkish War of 1806–1812 began when the Ottoman Empire attacked, after Russian forces were defeated at Austerlitz by Napoleon Bonaparte; in this case Russia gained Eastern Bessarabia and Transcaucasia.[6]

The Russo–Turkish War of 1828–1829, triggered by the Greek uprising for independence,[7] saw Russian advances into Dobruja through Wallachia and Moldavia, and in the Caucasus up to Erzurum.[8] In the years 1853–1856, the so-called "Crimean War,"[9] European Powers sought to prevent Russia's access to the Mediterranean, which they achieved, although Russia still gained certain territories.[10] The Russo–Turkish War of 1877–1878, between the Orthodox coalition led by Russia—composed of Bulgaria, Romania,[11] Serbia,[12] and

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[1] Bushkovitch, P. (2001). Peter the Great: The struggle for power, 1671–1725. Cambridge University Press. (pp. 334, 351).
[2] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (p. 24).
[3] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (p. 147).
[4] Encyclopedia of Ukraine. (2023, February 27). Russo–Turkish wars. http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CR%5CU%5CRusso6Turkishwars.htm.
[5] Britannica. (2023, February 27). Russo–Turkish wars. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Russo-Turkish-wars; Cook, C., & Stevenson, J. (1998). The Routledge companion to European history since 1763. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. (p. 203).
[6] Cook, C., & Stevenson, J. (1998). The Routledge companion to European history since 1763. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. (p. 206).
[7] Cook, C., & Stevenson, J. (1998). The Routledge companion to European history since 1763. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. (p. 42, 75)
[8] Cook, C., & Stevenson, J. (1998). The Routledge companion to European history since 1763. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. (p. 2)
[9] McArthur, S. (2010). Being European: Russian travel writing and the Balkans 1804–1877. University College London. (p. 157).
[10] McArthur, S. (2010). Being European: Russian travel writing and the Balkans 1804–1877. University College London. (p. 95-115).
[11] Hamant, Y. (1992). The Christianization of Ancient Russia: A millennium, 988–1988. UNESCO. (p. 269).
[12] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (pp. 235–248).

Montenegro[13]—against the Ottoman Empire,[14] was fought in the Balkans and the Caucasus. Balkan states gained autonomy up to independence, such as Bulgaria,[15] while Russia nearly captured Istanbul (in the Treaty of San Stefano), prompting the Great European Powers to convene the Congress of Berlin.[16]

Russia also influenced the First Balkan War, fought between the coalition of Balkan Slavs against the Ottoman Empire; despite its influence in the Balkans, Russia gained little.[17] In World War I, Russia attacked the Austro-Hungarian Empire in defense of Serbia,[18] and subsequently gained territories such as: Belarus (1922), Ukraine (1922), Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan (1926), Tajikistan (1929), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan (1936).[19] Most of these gains came after World War I, exploiting Bolshevik ideology as a supposedly universal principle.

In World War II, Russia was saved by the West—France, Britain, and the United States[20]—and from this war the Soviet Union occupied: Finland (1940), Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Moldova (1940).

The Soviet Union supported, motivated, and assisted numerous leftist rebel groups, Islamic terrorist organizations, and others, such as: the Communist Party of Afghanistan; Communist Party of Bhutan; Bolivian Revolutionary People's Front; Maoist Communist Party; National Liberation Army of Colombia; People's Liberation Army–Colombia; FARC; Communist Party of Ecuador–Red Sun and the People's Fighters Group; ETA; Communist Party of India; Communist Party of Iran; Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan; Kurdistan Free Life Party; Eastern Kurdistan Defense Units; Kurdistan Communities Union; Palestine Liberation Organization; Arab Liberation Front–Palestine; As-Sai'qa; Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Fatah; Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades; Force 14; Palestine Liberation Front; Democratic Union of Palestine; People's Party of Palestine; Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Paraguayan People's Army; Shining Path–Peru; Communist Party of the Philippines; National Democratic Front–Philippines; Revolutionary Workers' Party–Philippines; International Freedom Battalion–Syria; Communist Party of Turkey Marxist–Leninist; Marxist–Leninist Communist Party; Communist Workers' Party of Turkey; Communist Party of Kurdistan; Revolutionary Communist Party of Turkey; Borotba–Ukraine; Black Guerrilla Family and the Communist Militia of the United States, etc.[21]

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[13] McArthur, S. (2010). Being European: Russian travel writing and the Balkans 1804–1877. University College London. (pp. 60–64).
[14] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (p. 32).
[15] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (p. 143).
[16] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (p. 170).
[17] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (pp. 200–206).
[18] Jelavich, B. (1991). Russia's Balkan entanglements, 1806–1914. Cambridge University Press. (pp. 197); Lieven, D. (2006). The Cambridge history of Russia. Volume II: Imperial Russia, 1689–1917. Cambridge University Press. (p. 670).
[19] CVCE. (2023, February 27). http://www.cvce.eu/en/recherche/unit-content/-/unit/02bb76df-d066-4c08-a58a-d4686a3e68ff/a36c2b08-97a1-4308-b764-6ad5988d939b.
[20] Harrison, M. (1988). Resource mobilization for World War II: The U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R., and Germany, 1938–1945. Economic History Review, 41(2), 171–192.
[21] Central Intelligence Agency. (1999). The Soviet Union and nonruling communist parties. Directorate of Intelligence, Historical Review Program (sanitized release); Grzymała-Busse, A. (1997). The organizational

The Soviet Union and Nonruling Communist Parties, Directorate of Intelligence, CIA Historical Review program release as sanitized 1999; The Organizational Strategies of Communist Parties in East Central Europe, 1945-89, Anna Grzyma≈a-Busse, Department of Government, Harvard University Cambridge, 1997, (Çekosllovaki dhe Hungari).

The "Axis of Evil"—the Soviet Union—collapsed following the March 1989 Revolution in Poland, then in Hungary on 23 October 1989, in East Germany with the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, in Bulgaria in 1990, Czechoslovakia in 1990, and Romania in 1989.[22] Yugoslavia dissolved; Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Congo, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Somalia, and Yemen changed regimes; Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia ended; Yemen unified; while China, India, and Vietnam liberalized their economies.[23]

The Soviet Union dissolved as follows: Lithuania (11.03.1990), Estonia (30.03.1990), Latvia (4.05.1990), Abkhazia (25.08.1990), Transnistria (2.09.1990), Georgia (9.04.1991), Gagauzia (9.08.1991), Estonia (20.08.1991), Ukraine (24.08.1991), Belarus (25.08.1991), Moldova (27.08.1991), Kyrgyzstan (31.08.1991), Uzbekistan (1.09.1991), Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (2.09.1991), Tajikistan (9.09.1991), Armenia (21.09.1991), Azerbaijan (18.10.1991), Turkmenistan (27.10.1991), Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (1.11.1991), South Ossetia (28.11.1991), Russian Federation (12.12.1991), and Kazakhstan (16.12.1991).[24]

Putin has incorporated into Russia's Strategy of Restoration the use of ideologies, especially: the use of Islamism and Islamic terrorism for its objectives; corruption of officials in states where Russia seeks influence; use of organized crime; instrumentalization of energy resources; propaganda and nuclear threats, etc. In its expansion, Russia waged several wars of conquest since 1991, particularly in Georgia (2008), Ukraine (2014 and 2022). In parallel, Serbia copied the same strategy from Russia, applying it against Bosniaks and Albanians of Islamic faith.

Naturally, everyone understands that Russian aggression against Ukraine is not merely aggression against that country, but against the entire democratic world, represented mainly by Western states, and against our nation—the Albanian nation. The first phase of Russian aggression against Ukraine, beginning on 24 February 2022, aimed to occupy the entire territory of Ukraine and lasted until 7 April 2022, conducted from the northern front targeting Kyiv, alongside offensives in Eastern Ukraine in Luhansk and Donbas.[25] It quickly failed, prompting the second phase in southeastern Ukraine. On 8 April 2022, Russia announced the redeployment of its forces from northern Ukraine, and this offensive began on

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strategies of communist parties in East Central Europe, 1945–89 (Czechoslovakia and Hungary). Department of Government, Harvard University.

[22] Lauritzen, E. (2011). Causes and origins of the collapse of the former Soviet Union (Honors Research Thesis). The Ohio State University.

[23] Cold War Museum. (2023, February 27). Fall of the Soviet Union. http://www.coldwar.org/articles/90s/fall_of_the_soviet_union.asp.

[24] History.com Editors. (2023, February 27). Fall of the Soviet Union. https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/fall-of-soviet-union; Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. (2023, February 27). [Discussion Paper]. http://belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu/files/disc_paper_95_09.pdf .

[25] CBS News. (2022, March 21). Ukraine rejects Russian demand to surrender Mariupol in exchange for safe passage. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-mariupol-russia-surrender-reject/; CBC News. (2022, March 21). Ukraine refuses to surrender Mariupol as scope of human toll remains unclear. https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ukraine-russia-war-march21-1.6391709 .

17 April, but Russian advances remained minimal. By late August and mid-September, Russian forces lost significant portions of the territories they had occupied, as well as considerable personnel and equipment.

In such circumstances, it was clear that Russia would seek an alternative, which was the destabilization of the Balkans—specifically Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Kosovo—through Serbia. The presence of Serbian and Russian paramilitaries, subversionists, saboteurs, and special forces was evident in December 2022, erecting barricades, committing terrorist attacks, sabotage, etc. Simultaneously, Serbia used its Islamic agents to provoke internal political unrest in Bosnia and Herzegovina and especially in the Republic of Kosovo, and likewise used its Orthodox agents to instrumentalize the Orthodox minority in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republic of Kosovo. Fortunately, the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, etc., raised their voices and took concrete action against the Serbian government.

Remarkably, political, military, and security institutions are now addressing the issue of the destruction of Russia, just as the destruction of the Soviet Union was once addressed—and fortunately achieved. Naturally, the Russian Federation remains the last chauvinistic, expansionist, genocidal, and malevolent entity, making its final attempts to rise again to the pedestal of the Soviet Union. Just as once people spoke of the "Sick Man of the Bosphorus," today they speak of the "Sick Man of Siberia."

The end of the Russian Federation is increasingly near, and the deepening of the war in Ukraine is increasingly catastrophic for the aggressor; proportionally, the deeper the war in Ukraine becomes, the more catastrophic the aggressor's outcome will be.

The Russian Federation has 142.8 million inhabitants, of whom 111 million are considered ethnic Russians according to Russian sources,[26] or 80.9% of the total, while 19% are minorities.[27] Within the Russian Federation, more than 150 ethnic languages are spoken.[28] Even today, Russia is one of the few countries in the world that still holds under domination 193 ethnic groups,[29] most of whom are Orthodox; 16.4 million are Muslim; with 277 minority languages;[30] and 21 ethnic republics according to the 1992 Federation Treaty,[31] in which Russians are a minority in 13 of them. Therefore, it is understandable that the Russian Federation will break into at least 22 new states, or 193 to 277 new states (according to the principle of language as the determinant of ethnicity). Naturally, with the fall of the Russian Federation—the last bastion of "evil in the world"—international terrorism, especially Islamic terrorism, will also collapse.

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[26] Demoscope Weekly. (2023, February 27). Russian national composition statistics. http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/ssp/rus_nac_02.php

[27] Federal State Statistics Service of Russia (Rosstat). (2023, February 27). Results of the 2010 Russian Census [PowerPoint presentation]. https://web.archive.org/web/20120118212344/http://www.perepis-2010.ru/results_of_the_census/result-december-2011.ppt

[28] Ulasiuk, I. (2011). Legal protection of linguistic diversity in Russia: Past and present. Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, 32(1), 71–83.

[29] Prina, F. (2015). National minorities in Putin's Russia: Diversity and assimilation (p. 1). Routledge; O'Rourke, B., & Hogan-Brun, G. (Eds.). (2018). The Palgrave handbook of minority languages and communities (p. 185). Palgrave Macmillan.

[30] Lindholm, C., & Vanhatalo, U. (Eds.). (2021). Handbook of easy languages in Europe (p. 439). De Gruyter; Li, P., & Gorshkov, M. K. (2017). Life expectations of the people: A comparative sociological analysis of China and Russia (p. 158). Brill.

[31] De, P. K. (Ed.). (2011). Comparative politics (p. 184). Concept Publishing Company.

Europe, when divided, never won a war against Russia; neither Napoleon Bonaparte nor Germany in the two World Wars succeeded. Not because of Russia's military strength, but because Napoleon was defeated by German forces, while Germany in both World Wars was defeated by Anglo-American forces. Today we see a united Europe, and on the front line we see Ukraine, which miraculously incinerates every Russian ground assault. Fortunately, these are the final decades—indeed exclusively the final decades—of a political entity hostile to its neighbors.

Author Note: Skender Jashari is a Criminologist, Counter-Terrorism Expert, Hybrid Warfare Specialist, and Scientific Researcher. He also works as a Security Policy Advisor and Aerospace & Ground Systems Designer specializing in drones (VTOL, fixed-wing) and UGVs. Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to jashariskendergjergj@gmail.com.